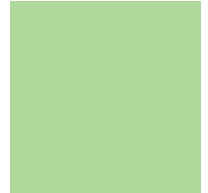


WINTER  
newsletter  
2024



## VALENTINE'S DAY 2024

REACH Preschoolers were involved in activities that highlighted caring and friendship during February! Catch up on all the preschool fun.....page 3

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# inside reach

is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to the membership of Reach Child and Youth Development Society. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe call 604-946-6622 ext. 0 or email [info@reachchild.org](mailto:info@reachchild.org) and write "newsletter" as subject line.

Submissions are welcome. Children's writing or artwork is welcome. Please include your contact information with your submission. Submissions can be emailed to [alisonm@reachchild.org](mailto:alisonm@reachchild.org) with "newsletter" in the subject line, faxed to 604-946-6622 (please do not fax artwork), mailed or dropped off at the front desk. For more information about the "inside reach" newsletter please call 604-946-6622 ext.337.



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## Reach Play and Learn Centre

11415 84th Avenue  
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## Message from the President



It has become noticeable that the hours of daylight are increasing day by day. The snowdrops are blooming

to announce that the arrival of Spring is imminent. As the weather warms up, we have more opportunities to be outside. Current research has emphasized the importance for children, youth and even adults, to benefit from play in an unstructured setting. It is good for our physical, mental, and emotional health. I live across the street from a school playground and love watching the daycare and school children at play during the day. I just wish that the playgrounds could be so well used during the after hours and weekends.

The park surrounding our REACH building is a wonderful place for all kinds of play. You may want to plan a visit to the park after your child's visit to their REACH appointments. My own children remember the times we would go out for "picnics" in the park. They often only involved a few crackers and cheese and a piece of fruit, but when eaten in the outdoors had a whole new taste and excitement.

The Board at REACH is always looking at ways to prioritize our goals and set plans in process to serve more young people in new and better ways. New plans and

programs depend on the availability of having well trained staff to support the programs. The employment situation in our area has made the hiring and retention of staff a concern, but we are always surprised by our ability to hire the most caring, well qualified individuals.

The REACH Board is very proud of our family centered approach to the delivery of services and acknowledges the benefits of services provided by an integrated team of professionals. When the Board looks at plans for the future, we consider:

- The need for increased programs
- The need for more quality respite time
- The need for summer programs in the community
- The continued need for a kindergarten readiness program
- The need for expanded counselling time
- The need for families to access information in an easy manner
- The need to improve services to children and youth with FASD
- The need to address the mental health needs in the young people of the community
- The need to access more funding for all our programs

The list sometimes seems endless but we continue to try new and better ways to support all our families.

*On behalf of the REACH Society Board of Directors,*

*Phyllis With, President*

## 2023/2024 Board of Directors

### Reach Child and Youth Development Society:

Phyllis With, President; Angela Keulen, Vice President; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Marcia McCafferty, Secretary; Shirley-Ann Reid, Director; Stuart Bowyer, Director; Lois Wilkinson, Director; Claire Hatcher, Director; Christine Sutherland, Director; Joanne Hunton-Sehdev, Director; Nauman Jutt, Director

### Reach Child and Youth Charitable Foundation:

Denis Horgan, Chair; Sharon Schoeffel, Vice Chair; Ryan Thomas, Treasurer; Laura Dixon, Secretary; Sharon Schoeffel, Vice Chair; Jit Sangha, Director; Lisa Margetson, Director; Amy Bonner, Director



*Like, follow, look and watch. There are lots of ways to connect to Reach. Visit our newest events channel on Instagram @reachchildevents*

# REACH Preschools

## Valentine's Day



## Skating



## Ongoing Registration!

Reach Developmental Preschools offer all children a stimulating, emergent program to develop their physical, social, emotional, language, and cognitive skills to their full potential. Spaces are available at both Preschools - North and South Delta for ongoing registration. Fees have been reduced thanks to the BC Government Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. Visit REACH website [Preschool North](#) or [Preschool South](#) for more information or contact [denises@reachchild.org](mailto:denises@reachchild.org), 604-946-6622 ext 308



# Holiday Celebrations

## Preschools



## Parent to Parent Support Group (Punjabi)



Families in [REACH Punjabi-speaking parent group](#) organized a Diwali celebration at the Taj Park Convention Centre and a subsequent Christmas celebration where REACH Associate ED Camille Netherton addressed families and thanked Program Coordinator Pindi Mann for her support to families.

Group parents presented at both events to share their experiences and children and youth in the group danced, sang and spoke at the podium.



Activities were provided for children in this large, safe venue and both events were very well attended. Parents involved in this group have created an offshoot group: Fraser Valley Together for Special Needs Society!

# REACH Holiday Appeal was a HUGE Success!

THANK YOU to all our donors and the Cote Family who made our REACH Gift of Speech 2023 holiday campaign such a success!! It featured REACH SLP Joanne Beauchamp, three-year-old Cruz and his mom Ray Win pictured at the right with dad Bruce.

The Holiday Appeal began on Giving Tuesday Nov.28, 2023 with a launch event at Envision Financial Ladner Branch that raised \$3,985. On Dec.19, Fraserway RV contributed \$5,000 and then on Dec.22, the Delta Firefighters Charitable Foundation donated \$10,500 taking the Gift of Speech total to over \$32,000!!

“Early intervention in speech therapy is the key to unlocking a world of communication for every child”, says REACH Early Therapies Coordinator Anwar Ul Haq. “By addressing challenges at the onset, we empower children to express themselves and connect with others, laying the foundation for a lifetime of meaningful communication. Your support not only transforms lives but also speaks volumes about the compassion that unites us in creating a world where every voice is heard and celebrated.”



## Family Day at TFN



On Saturday February 24th, Reach staff collaborated with Tsawwassen First Nation to host a Family Day event for TFN members at their Youth Centre. Families participated in 3 different workshops, including healthy meal prepping with First Nations Health Authority, learning about visual schedules/supports with Angela Ruel from REACH, and participating in an art therapy activity with TFN staff. REACH staff were honoured to be a part of this event!



# Professional Day Program Fair 2024



On March 7, 2024 Reach Society held our annual Professional Day and it included an information fair component where program staff created displays for Pro-D participants to come and learn about each other's programs during lunchtime.

Other presentations to staff included a parent coaching workshop, cultural safety, organizational culture and health and safety subjects.

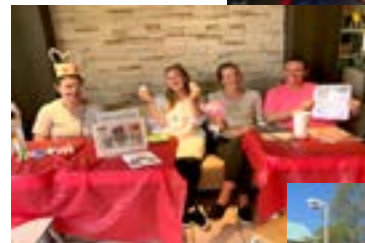


Get ready for McHappy Day!



For many years, Ladner and Tsawwassen McDonald's Restaurants have been supporting REACH on McHappy Day. We are grateful to Nauman Jutt, the new owner who continued the tradition in 2023, when he took over from long time supporter Steve Krawchuk.

The McHappy Day raffle prize is a Playstation 5 Slim console including Spiderman 2 games. Tickets are on sale now at South Delta McDonald's Restaurants only Please come to McDonald's Ladner or Tsawwassen May 8, enjoy the face painting, crafts, and other festivities lunch time and after school while showing your support. 2023 McHappy Day photos to the right!



# Ride for Respite



Langara college students Sophie Richards and Georgia Hoar's biking fundraiser to benefit the REACH Respite Program was a huge success on Saturday, March 16, 2024, and \$1,905 was raised! The two students presented the big cheque April 2nd and are pictured with Laura Dixon and Rae-Anne Schneider (L:R). The bike ride with 39 participants, started from Captain's Cove Marina and ended at host Barnside Brewing where snacks, beverages and a community silent auction ensued. REACH Foundation Board Director Laura Dixon was involved from beginning to end and offers the following insights:

"I was approached by two young women who are in the Langara Business Management Program who were enrolled in a Special Events business course. It is a higher level course that requires them to work with a team to create, plan and execute an event all within a few months. This is extremely ambitious for anyone but especially for full time students with part time jobs! The students were impressed with Reach's Respite Care program and the concept "Ride for Respite" took off and the results were four times their expectations. Thanks to all the local businesses who donated to the Silent Auction, the fabulous hosts at Barnside Brewing and the Ride for Respite Team. As a result, the Respite Program can be made even better for the young people who are enrolled. We are very excited that Langara Business Management Program is doing this kind of experiential learning for their students as the non-profit sector benefits tremendously from the next generation's input and energy. We are so grateful that they chose Reach."

Georgia says, "After learning about REACH's Respite Care Program, Sophie and I were inspired by how the organization uplifts individuals with developmental disabilities

and fosters a supportive environment for every family member. We were lucky enough to get a tour of REACH's facilities, where we saw firsthand all the different activities and resources that this organization provides for the community. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity; it has been so rewarding to work with amazing people from such a special program. We hope that moving forward there will be more recognition for Reach's Respite Care program, and how truly important it is for the families and children in our community."

Sophie offers her thoughts, "On the day of the event, Georgia and I were filled with nervous excitement. We hoped for a good turnout, but the support from our community exceeded our expectations. The generosity from local businesses and silent auction bidders alike was truly amazing. Witnessing the turnout, we felt such gratitude for the support, not just for us as students, but also in support of Reach's Respite Care Program. This experience has been incredibly rewarding, and we hope that Ride for Respite helps to shine a light on the amazing work of Reach and its dedicated staff!"

Overnight Respite Coordinator Rae-Anne Schneider said, "Thank you so much Georgia and Sophie! Respite is a vital service that provides families with a temporary break from the challenges associated with caring for a child with a developmental disability, as well as fosters the opportunity for that child to grow new relationships and social connections. The funds raised by The Ride for Respite will be put towards activities, equipment and emergency hours for families in need."

# Donation to REACH Therapies program!

Arabella Wallace and her parents Janelle and Iain recently donated a Wizzybug to Reach Early Intervention Therapies program. It is a significant gift with a value of \$10,000 and REACH Occupational Therapist Christine Gleave is grateful to add it to the therapies equipment library. "The ability to use the Wizzybug with multiple children will help so many of our families and we extend heartfelt thanks to the Wallace family for their generosity."

Wizzybug is a powered wheelchair for young children with delays or a disability under 5. It offers children fun, independence and freedom of movement, often for the first time in their lives and can be used inside and outside.

Courtesy of Designability.org



## Petro Canada Grant funds Parent to Parent Peer Group

Petro-Canada CareMakers Foundation provided \$7,500 in funding to REACH Parent to Parent Group (Punjabi). Over the past 3 years, the program has grown from 8 families to 87 families residing in Surrey and Delta participating. A majority of them are not current Reach clients which indicates that this group is supporting the greater community.

Referrals come from parents within the group, service providers and families who have heard about the program in the community. Families have become comfortable sharing their journeys with the public and this also helps raise awareness. Five moms have gone on local radio stations to share their stories in an effort to help others who have felt isolated and a number spoke at the group's Christmas party.

Families are more comfortable meeting in person for social events and there is a desire to organize more which is a welcome development as families were more reticent when the group began. Most recently, they asked to organize a Diwali celebration in 2023, and photos are included in this newsletter.



The parents involved in the group have also taken the initiative to organize a two week summer camp for families in the group and secured funding from local business people and gurdwara's for hiring of a bus, Behaviour Interventionists and entrance fees (Aquarium, science world, etc.) Peer to peer support groups foster an eagerness to help new families

The help received for REACH Parent Peer to Peer Groups also provides educational sessions in Punjabi language on diverse topics such as Q&A Sessions on Autism & Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Understanding Anxiety and ADHD Treatments and Supports.



# Lily's Birthday Fundraiser

The Cameron family visited us Dec. 14, 2023 to present us with a big cheque from a little girl! Lily turned three on November 4th and mom Michelle and dad Dan decided to do something very special to celebrate her birthday. They asked that friends and families donate to REACH instead of giving gifts in appreciation of the help that Lily has received in REACH's autism program. 54 friends and family supported in a BIG way donating \$1,000 in total including a contribution from Lily, Michelle and Dan themselves. This generous donation is dedicated to the REACH Autism (ABA) program and we thank the Cameron family and their friends for their thoughtful support!

We are honoured to share a testimonial from the Cameron family below about their act of extraordinary generosity and we also look forward to hearing more of their family story at this year's gala!

"What sets Reach apart is not just the programs they offer, but the genuine care and understanding they extend to families. Lily is not just a case; she's an individual with unique needs, and Reach has recognized and addressed those needs with utmost dedication.

The journey with Reach has been one of discovery and growth, not just for Lily but for our entire family. The organization has become an integral part of our support system, offering not only practical assistance but also a sense of community and understanding. Through Reach, we've connected with other families facing similar challenges, creating a network of shared experiences and mutual support.



As we reflect on our path so far, we are grateful for the support of Reach and the compassionate professionals like Sarah Nykon who have been by our side. Lily's journey is ongoing, but with Reach, we feel equipped and empowered to face whatever challenges lie ahead. The organization has been a beacon of hope, turning what initially seemed like a daunting diagnosis into a story of resilience, growth, and success for Lily and our family. We would like to take this time to thank Lily's current team consisting of the following wonderful and incredibly talented individuals: Pia Evans, Erin Harris, Gina Polisky, Gina Maslin, Andrea Wong, Alyssa Kowbel and Alyssa Grant have been as good to us as if we were family."

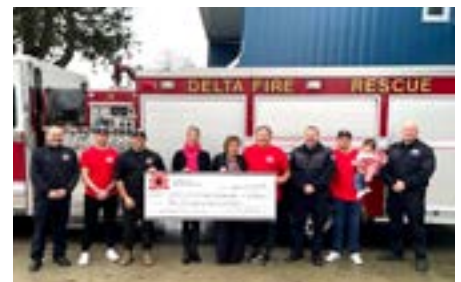
# December Donations to Gift of Speech!



REACH Volunteer Board Directors Sharon Schoeffel and Lisa Margetson were on site at Ladner Envision on Giving Tuesday. \$485 was donated by generous credit union members. In addition, the branch itself donated \$3500!



Barend Vant Hoog, Nigel Gentry and David Frolik join Tamara Veitch presenting the big cheque representing holiday giving to charity from Fraserway RV. They also gave \$5,000 to Gift of Speech in 2017, 2021 and 2022!



Delta Firefighters Charitable Foundation (DFF) donates to local charities during their December Days of Giving Campaign! On their 8th day of Giving, December 22, 2023, DFF donated \$10,500 to Reach Gift of Speech!

# Art Auction Proceeds



Reach Child and Youth Development Society's fourth Annual Art Auction for Autism fundraiser enjoyed the greatest success yet, raising \$9,200 thanks in part to local artist Sandra Taylor who donated many pieces from her private collection.

Other artists from the community contributed paintings, pottery, sculptures, and jewelry lots that were displayed through the online auction from Feb. 11 to 26. Successful bidders are currently picking up their art prizes at the Ladner Child Development Centre. One of the happy successful bidders was Kathleen Siba, pictured, who is a dedicated supporter of Reach.

Her late husband Tom Siba was a volunteer Board Director at REACH for many years. Fundraising events like the Art Auction for Autism would not be possible without the charity's dedicated event volunteers and the supportive community around it, comprised of artists who donated their work and the appreciative bidders who purchased it.

"The art auction is truly a grass roots community effort, from the volunteers and talented artists who make it possible to the generous bidders," said Tamara Veitch, REACH Events and Donor Development coordinator. "We extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of the children we serve."

# Get ready for Walk for the CAWS

One of our families is spearheading an awareness walk for Williams Syndrome on Saturday, May 11th, at Memorial Park: Walk for the CAWS (Canadian Association for Williams Syndrome). Last year's event was a great afternoon out and this year, you can expect a day filled with live music, bouncy castles, face painting and games. Proceeds benefit CAWS and adult tickets are priced at \$25, while child tickets are \$10, inclusive of a BBQ lunch, a commemorative t-shirt, entertainment, and more! Get your ticket at [Canada Helps](https://www.canadahelps.org) . Sending thanks to REACH parent Amy Bonner for this information! CAWS poster child Olivia and mom Amy will also be featured in a family video at our 2024 Reach for the Stars Gala!



# Pink Shirt Day



REACH staff and children showed their support for Anti-Bullying Day on Feb.28. The 2024 theme of Pink Shirt Day was All Kinds of Kindness. It was a reminder that all forms of kindness help to build inclusive communities. The meaning behind Pink Shirt Day is to promote kindness, compassion, and understanding towards others.



# Emergency Preparedness in your home



Canada has a national emergency week this year May 5-11 and is providing great new resources to families after collaborating with Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and the

Salvation Army. There is a focus on knowing the risks in your immediate vicinity and preparing for them. In BC, we are familiar with earthquake and more recently with wildfire risk. Visit the Emergency Preparedness Guide here: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yprprdnsd/index-en.aspx>

When you think emergency preparedness for your family, it is recommended to have enough supplies for the first 72 hours. In order to make it happen, the advice is to make a plan, build a kit and finally to stay informed. There's a comprehensive emergency kit contents list here: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/kts/bsc-kt-en.aspx>

# Reach for the Stars 12th Annual Gala!



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Reach Society unveils its much-anticipated 'Wishes and Wonder' Gala, slated for June 1st, 2024, at the elegant Tsawwassen Springs Ballroom. Promising a night brimming with magic and whimsy, the event aims to elevate the quality of life for families, as expressed by Tamara Veitch, Reach Society Events Coordinator. "This year's gala," she shares, "is dedicated to ensuring childhood remains a realm of wonder, where dreams are realized."

With aspirations to surpass the triumph of last year's gala, Reach Society extends heartfelt gratitude to REALCO Properties for their continued support as Major Donor, along with the unwavering commitment of Port of Vancouver as Presenting Sponsor, Beedie as Platinum Sponsor and Steve Darling as emcee. The 2023 'Reach for the Stars' fundraising gala amassed an impressive \$160,000, channeling

vital resources to support children and youth with diverse needs at Reach Child and Youth Development Society. This year's gala will transport guests into the fantastical world of Alice in Wonderland, complete with vibrant characters brought to life by the Delta Youth Theatre.

The gala's silent auction, accessible online prior to the event in mid-May, invites participation from the entire community. For those keen to contribute auction prizes, kindly reach out to [tamarav@reachchild.org](mailto:tamarav@reachchild.org). Donate to the event or purchase tickets for this enchanting affair by visiting <https://www.reachgala.com>.